

Motion/Emotion: Touching Images from New Spain to Europe
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The reception in Europe of pre-Hispanic and colonial objects sent from the New World in the 16th and 17th centuries has often been understood under the paradigm of exoticism. After an initial effect of wonder, these symbols of a far “otherness” would be just stored and forgotten, without any other specific relation to their audiences than an inconsistent curiosity. In this talk I will present a paradigmatic case that allows us to take a different avenue of research: a feather mosaic representing Saint Francis sent from New Spain to Rome and arrived literally “in the hands” of pope Sixtus V. Through a close reading of the episode –as it is told by the Jesuit José de Acosta in his *Historia Natural y Moral de las Indias* (1591)– we will be able to analyze the circulation of this and other images as an highly creative process where the object involves a ceaseless emotional chain of responses –sometimes very physical– that questions the point of departure of the image and relocates its destiny.